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instance by these persons becoming a permanent charge upon the electoral division of the city. Any system of public relief can never be equitably administered, which does not so far embrace the principle of settlement, as to enable the establishment at which relief is given to persons not belonging to the district, to charge the expense of the same to that union, or electoral division, in which the recipient of the relief had been for twelve months a resident. In determining the liability for the funds for providing relief for the sick, great embarrassment would be avoided by putting the tax generally upon the poor law unions, and not limiting the charge to the electoral divisions. The poorer divisions are, generally speaking, those in which the greater extent of sickness prevails, and by distributing the tax over a larger proportion of property, it would bear less oppressively upon those districts least able to bear it. Such an arrangement would secure a proper allocation of medical establishments, for while the wealthier districts are provided with institutions for relieving the sick, the poorest parts of the country are left destitute of the means of giving medical assistance.

Whilst the local government's conduct and management of the several establishments for giving public medical relief, should be vested in elective bodies, freely chosen from the rate-payers, it would be essential, in order to secure uniformity of action, and regularity of detail, that a central governmental authority, responsible to Parliament, should exercise a general control and superintendence over all the medical institutions, supported by public assessment.

On the Connexion between Statistics and Political Economy. By
Professor LAWSON, T.C.D.

[Read before the Statistical Section of the British Association at Cork, 21st Aug., 1843.]

THE professor began with remarking, that statistics present nothing but a dull and barren show of figures, until united with the principles which belong to political economy. The former study bears to the latter the same relation which experimental philosophy bears to mathematics. Political economy, though a mixed science, yet has its abstract part, and the application of the principles thence derived to facts, lead us on to new truths. Statistics afford at once the materials and the test of political economy. The professor then adduced an example of the way in which statistics frequently correct political economy. In Edinburgh, the proportion of marriages to the whole population, is 1 in 136. In Leith, however, where the population is of much humbler grade, the proportion is 1 in 110. Again, in Perth, there is 1 marriage in 159 inhabitants; while in Dundee, which is a much poorer place, there is 1 in 111 inhabitants. Thus statistics prove that poverty is not a check on marriage, though political economists have always assumed that it is. We find another example in the doctrine of profits and wages, which Mr. Ricardo, followed by other political economists, held to be antagonistic, the increase of wages diminishing profit, and *vice versa*; whereas Mr. Senior, on looking to facts, found that wages and profits usually rise and fall together. Mr. Ricardo's error, in this instance, is traceable to ambiguity of expression. While statistics afford materials and a test to political economy, the latter points out the proper object of statistical inquiry, and draws conclusions from their results.